

Joint Statement on Agenda item 16.2: Non-communicable diseases ([WPR/RC69/10](#))

This statement is made by World Cancer Research Fund International, with the Healthy Philippines Alliance and the NCD Alliance (global).

We highly commend the increased focus on NCDs at meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for Western Pacific in recent years, especially the adoption of the Western Pacific Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2014-2020). As the midterm evaluation of the Action Plan is being discussed at this year's RCM, we recognise the region's commitment to tackle NCDs, but emphasise the need to strengthen further political engagement and implementation of policies to prevent and control NCDs.

We acknowledge regional efforts to tackle NCDs, including those on reducing and preventing childhood obesity, increased tobacco control and the reduction of harmful use of alcohol, which along with other policy levers have helped reduce the probability of dying from NCDs in the region from 17.1% in 2010 to 16.2% in 2016.

Nevertheless, only five of the 27 Member States in the WPRO region have achieved half of the Plan's 10 progress monitoring indicators. Additionally, as of September 2017, according to the WHO Progress Monitor on NCDs, only 13 Member States in the region have set national targets and only 11 have implemented operational multisectoral strategies to address NCDs.

We congratulate Member States for the progress so far, and urge further action to accelerate and scale up prevention, treatment and control interventions on NCDs in the Western Pacific.

We call on the WPRO and Member States to:

- **Scale up the commitments made in the Political Declaration approved during the 2018 UN High-level Meeting on NCDs. Countries must go beyond the Political Declaration** and adopt bolder actions to achieve the SDG target of reducing premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030, through stronger prevention, treatment and control interventions on NCDs, mental health and well-being.
- **Develop and enforce national multisectoral action plans with time-bound targets for NCD prevention and control**, by strengthening national technical capacity and leadership across the region, and including the views and needs of people living with NCDs and youth.
- **Strengthen actions on childhood obesity**, including restricting marketing to children, strengthening national surveillance and monitoring systems, and adopting policies to improve children's food environments and protect them from the harmful impact of unhealthy foods and beverages.
- **Implement 'STAX' policies as part of a comprehensive approach to preventing and controlling NCDs.** Use fiscal tools to reduce consumption of sugar, tobacco and alcohol, and promote health and nutrition.
- **Support the strengthening and increase of independent accountability mechanisms** for Member States to develop, implement and monitor the development and implementation of effective policies to prevent and control NCDs.

We stand ready to support WPRO and Member States in accelerating implementation of the 2014 commitments on NCDs, the 10 indicators of the Action Plan, and to build on the priorities adopted at the 2018 UN High-level Meeting on NCDs.